

REMARKS

The Applicants initially wish to point out that this U.S. national phase of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2003/010805, published under International Publication No. WO 2004/031684, contains an International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER).

Claims 1 and 3-11 have been amended to delete reference numerals, remove multiple dependencies, and reflect other minor changes. Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Examination of the pending claims on their merits is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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